

## Message Text

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EUR/ NE: RTBURNS( PHONE)

EUR/ RPE: PJRIZIK( PHONE)

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R 272128 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRIDGETOWN KINGSTON  
PORT OF SPAIN BELIZE NASSAU MARCH 22, FROM GEORGETOWN  
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0426

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, XL, XA

SUBJECT: CARIFTA AND COMMONWEALTH AFRICAN MISSION DISCUSS  
ASSOCIATION WITH EEC

SUMMARY: COMMONWEALTH AFRICAN MISSION MET WITH REPRESENTA-  
TIVITES OF COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES MARCH 19 IN MOVE  
TOWARD POSSIBLE UNIFIED APPROACH ON FORM OF ASSOCIATION WITH  
ENLARGED EEC. MEETING ONLY EXPLORATORY, HOWEVER, AS CARIBBEAN  
AND AFRICAN ASSOCIABLES STILL IN PROCESS OF REACHING RESPECTIVE  
REGIONAL COMMON POSITIONS. DURING LOCAL PRESS INTERVIEW,  
MISSION LEADER DISCUSSED APPROXIMATE TIMETABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT  
OF AFRICAN STANCE. FORMAL CARIBBEAN- AFRICAN CONSULTATIONS  
MIGHT COMMENCE LATE THIS SPRING AT EARLIEST. END SUMMARY.

1. COMMONWEALTH AFRICAN MISSION ARRIVED GEORGETOWN MARCH 18 TO  
APPRISE CARIBBEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION ( CARIFTA) COUNTRIES  
OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH TRADE MINISTERS  
MEETING IN LAGOS FEBRUARY 16 ON ASSOCIATION WITH ENLARGED  
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. DELEGATION LED BY EAST AFRICAN  
MINISTER FOR COMMON MARKET AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN EAST  
AFRICAN COMMUNITY, DR. ROBERT OUKO OF KENYA. OTHER MISSION  
MEMBERS WERE NIGERIA' S FEDERAL COMMISSIONER FOR TRADE, WENIKE  
BRIGGS; SIERRA LEONE' S MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES, SEMBU FORNA; AND EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY' S DEPUTY  
MINISTER FOR COMMON MARKET AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, SILAS  
MUNAB.

2. FOLLOWING DAY, MISSION MET CAIRBEAN REPS AT CARIFTA  
SECRETARIAT HEADQUARTERS WHERE, ACCORDING PRESS RELEASE, DR.  
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OUKO " STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF UNITY OF ACTION, ALTHOUGH AFRICAN  
COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES THEMSELVES TOGETHER WITH OTHER NON-  
COMMONWEALTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES STILL IN PROCESS OF EVOLVING  
DEFINITE COMMON POSITION." RELEASE WENT ON TO STATE THAT  
" IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES  
WOULD ENSURE SOLIDARITY AND COLLABORATION ON QUESTION THEIR  
RELATIONSHIP WITH ENLARGED EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, AND ON  
SIMILAR OTHER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AFFECTING THEIR INTERESTS."  
CARIFTA REPS INCLUDED GUYANA' S MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS, S. S.

RAMPHAL( WHO CHAIRED MEETING); JAMAICA' S MINISTER INDUSTRY AND TOURISM, P. J. PATTERSON; TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO' S MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, E. MAHABIR, AND MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AND WEST INDIAN AFFAIRS, C. JOSEPH; GRENEDA' S SENATOR DEREK KNIGHT REPRESENTING EAST CARIBBEAN COMMON MARKET( EECM), CARIFTA SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAM DEMAS AND ECCM AND CARIFTA SECRETARIAT SENIOR OFFICIALS.

3. AFTER THE MEETING, DR. OUKO TOLD GOVT- OWNED " CHRONICLE" THAT QUESTION OF FORM OF RELATIONSHIP WITH EEC NOT FEATURED IN TALKS BECAUSE AFRICA STILL IN PROCESS REACHING COMMON POSITION. BUT CONTINUOUS CONTACT WOULD BE INITIATED BETWEEN AFRICA AND CARIBBEAN THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, PROBABLY IN BRUSSELS AND BY OTHER MEANS.

4. DR. OUG EXPLAINED GEORGETOWN MISSION WAS RESULT FEBRUARY 16 LAGOS MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH AFRICAN STATES, WHICH DECIDED CARIBBEAN ASSOCIABLES SHOULD BE CONSULTED PRIOR TO NEGOTIATIONS. SAID FEBRUARY MEETING OF AFRICAN NATIONS CALLED BY COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT CANCELLED BECAUSE THEY DID NOT FEEL READY TO PROCEED, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY HAD NOT HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH THEIR CARIBBEAN COUNTERPARTS. THIS ALSO REASON FOR DROPPING EEC ISSUE FROM AGENDA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA IN ACCRA LAST MONTH. AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH HOPED TO WORK OUT POSITION AT ITS NEXT MEETING IN NARIBOI APRIL 5 AND 6 WHEN HIS MISSION WULD REPORT ON VISIT TO CARIBBEAN AND RWANDA, WHERE IT WOULD HOLD SIMILAR TALKS WITH AFRICAN ASSOCIATES. FIRST MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING, ORGANIZED BY OAU , HE CONTINUED, WOULD TAKE PLACE NEXT MONTH IN ABIDJAN WHERE EEC ISSUE WOULD FEATURE " VERY PROMINENTLY INDEED". RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE MADE AT THAT MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION BY ADDIS ABBA MEETING OF AFRICAN HEADS ( OF STATE) IN MAY. DR. OUKO INDICATED NO FIXED DATE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMENCEMENT FORMAL AFRICAN- CARIBBEAN CONSULTATION ON EEC QUESTION, BUT THOUGHT THIS COULD TAKE PLACE AFTER ADDIS ABBA SUMMIT OR YAOUNDE CONFERENCE EARLIER IN MAY.

5. ASKED WHETHER PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR AUGUST 1 DEADLINE FOR START OF TALKS WITH EEC IN BRUSSELS, DR. OUKO REPLIED: " THE WHOLE QUESTION OF ASSOCIATION WITH EEC IS SO IMPORTANT THAT IF WE FIND SO-CALLED AUGUST 1 DEADLINE TOO EARLY, WE WILL SAY SO. I AM NOT SAYING WE SHALL NOT ATTEND ON AUGUST 1. BUT FROM DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD, WE HAVE COME TO CONCLUSION THESE TALKS ARE SO CRUCIAL THAT WE REGARD THE DEADLINE AS SECONDARY IMPORTANCE."

6. COMMENT: CARIFTA SENT EXPLORATORY MISSION TO EAST AND

WEST AFRICA LAST SEPTEMBER TO SOUND OUT PROSPECTS FOR FORGING  
JOINT COMMONWEALTH APPROACH TO EEC. RETURN AFRICAN VISIT  
ONE RESULT THAT INITIATIVE.

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7. LIKE AFRICA, CARIBBEAN COMMONWEALTH DIVIDED ON FORM OF EEC  
ASSOCIATION. FOUR INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES ( JAMAICA, TRINIDAD  
AND TOBAGO, GUYANA, BARBADOS) APPARENTLY PREFER LOOSE  
RELATIONSHIP PROVIDING GUARANTEED SUGAR AND CITRUS MARKETS,  
GRANTING IN RETURN- WITH EYE ON US GSP STANCE- ONLY MINIMAL  
( OR IDEALLY NO) REVERSE PREFERENCES. HOWEVER, SMALLER, NON-  
INDEPENDENT ISLANDS TEND FAVOR YAOUNDE- TYPE ARRANGEMENT WHICH  
HAS MERIT OF CARRYING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM EUROPEAN  
DEVELOPMENT FUND CARIFTA HOPES CO- ORDINATION AND IDENTITY  
OF INTERESTS WITH NUMBER OTHER COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLES  
WILL CULMINATE IN UNIFIED AFRO- CARIBBEAN PRESSURES FOR BOTH  
ENSURED EEC MARKETS AND AID WITH AS FEW TRADE CONCESSIONS AS  
POSSIBLE

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8. DEPT ASKED TO MAKE FURTHER DISTRIBUTION AS APPROPRIATE.  
KING UNQUOTE ROGERS

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ACCRA  
ADDIS ABABA  
BLANTYRE  
BONN  
DAKAR  
DAR ES SALAAM

EC BRUSSELS  
FREETOWN  
GABORONE  
KAMPALA  
KHARTOUM  
LAGOS  
LONDON  
LUSAKA  
MASERU  
MBABANE  
MONROVIA  
NAIROBI  
PARIS  
PRETORIA  
YAOUNDE  
THE HAGUE  
LUXEMBOURG  
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